CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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BRAZIL, BURMA, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

Joint Memorandum on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The international community has for many years urged upon all states, particularly the major powers, the imperative need to reach agreement on the cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time. The United Nations has adopted several resolutions on the subject, particularly Resolution 1762 (XVII) which condemned all tests.

The Moscow Test Ban Treaty, entered into on August 5, 1963, was a significant first step in this direction. The preamble to this Treaty expressed the determination of the nuclear powers to continue negotiations for achieving the discontinuance of all nuclear weapo tests. Unfortunately, no progress has yet been made towards this end, and test explosions continue to take place despite repeated calls by the United Nations for the urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests [Resolution 1910 (XVIII)]. In particular, the United Nations has called upon the Eighteen-Nation disarmament Committee to continue with a sense of urgency its negotiations on that behalf.

The delegations of Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic noted that the Disarmament Commission, convened in April-June 1965, took special interest in the question of the prohibition of nuclear weapon tests, and made a special mention of the initiative taken by the eight delegations as contained in the memorandum they jointly submitted to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee on 14 September 1964. Resolution DC/225 of June 15, 1965, especially recommended that the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee should consider as a matter of priority the question of extending the scope of the Partial Test Ban Treaty to cover underground tests.

In response to world public opinion and to the will of the United Nations as embodied in the various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, as well as in implementation of the Resolution 225 of the Disarmament Commission, the delegations of the eight non-aligned states have continued to pursue with urgency and determination, in the present session of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, the question of the discontinuance of nuclear weapon tests. They have also elaborated various proposals and suggestions made by them in this respect.

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The delegations of the eight non-aligned states are convinced that the discontinuance of the underground tests and the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty will not only consolidate the Partial Test Ban Treaty but also in itself constitute a measure towards non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It will strengthen the efforts being made to reach agreement on an appropriate treaty about non-proliferation, and generally improve the international climate.

The delegations of Brazil, Burma, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden and the United Arab Republic have noted with satisfaction the declarations made during the current session of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee that there has been considerable improvement in the techniques of detection and identification of underground tests. They therefore urge the Nuclear Powers to take immediate steps to reach an agreement to ban all nuclear weapon tests. They still believe that agreement on a treaty banning underground tests could be facilitated by the exchange of scientific and other information between the Nuclear Powers or by the improvement of detection and identification techniques, if necessary. Meanwhile, they reiterate their appeal to the powers concerned to suspend forthwith nuclear weapon tests in all environments. In order to assist the Nuclear Powers in observing suspension of underground tests, the non-aligned delegations stress the advantages that would accrue from international cooperation in the work of seismic detection.

The eight delegations reaffirm their stand that all nuclear weapon tests should cease immediately.